



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CHATTAHOOCHEE RECEIVES \$2,154,000 FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BREAKS GROUND ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL, October 5, 2004 — The northwest Florida community of Chattahoochee took a giant step forward today. With financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, today's combined ceremonial check signing and groundbreaking event will bring much needed improvements to the City of Chattahoochee's waste water treatment plant. Located in Gadsden County, the City of Chattahoochee has owned and operated the current wastewater treatment facility since 1968, treating the domestic wastewater generated within the city and adjacent portions of Gadsden County.

With increasingly stringent Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations in place, the City of Chattahoochee was placed under an Administrative Order with DEP to improve its quality of wastewater. The treatment plant discharges into the Apalachicola River tributary of Mosquito Creek, adversely impacting water quality of the stream. Improvement and expansion of the treatment facility will include replacement of the existing contact stabilization process with sequencing batch reactors, adding digestion and mechanical thickening and dewatering including a belt filter press, conversion of the existing stabilization basin to an effluent equalization basin, updating the electrical system to 480 volts, and adding a standby power generator.

With \$2,154,000 in funding from USDA Rural Development (\$1,077,000 grant and \$1,077,000 loan), the proposed facility will serve an estimated 1,220 customers. System improvements will ensure that appropriate requirements are met and anticipated growth needs of the community are served. "Investing in basic community infrastructure supports President Bush's vision for a strong and vibrant rural America," said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. "We can never take for granted the importance of these types of facilities to the health and safety of our residents, to the viability of our environment, and to the sustainability of our communities."

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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